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E51

ACTION WHA-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	CIAE-00	INL-00	DODE-00
	DOEE-00	PERC-00	DS-00	EB-00	EUR-00	VC-00	H-00
	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	LAB-01	L-00	VCE-00	AC-00
	NSAE-00	OIC-00	OMB-00	PA-00	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00
	FMPC-00	SP-00	IRM-00	SSO-00	STR-00	TRSE-00	ECA-00
	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-00	G-00	NEAT-00	SAS-00	/001W

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RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.4(D), 1.4(B)

O 301321Z JUL 04
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7175
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LIMA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY QUITO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO PRIORITY
HQ USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL PRIORITY
NSC WASHDC PRIORITY
USINT HAVANA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 002431

NSC FOR C. BARTON
USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/08/2013
TAGS: PGOV, PHUM, KDEM, OAS, VE
SUBJECT: VENEZUELA'S RECALL REFERENDUM: OBSTRUCTIONS AND
OBSERVERS

Classified By: A/DCM Abelardo A. Arias for reason 1.5 (d).

SUMMARY

1. (C) With little more than two weeks to go before the scheduled Presidential recall referendum, Venezuela's National Electoral Council (CNE) refused July 29 to consider requests to changes in voting locations which the opposition claims were done fraudulently. The more than one million changes, according to Accion Democratica's Henry Ramos Allup, affected persons who the government had identified as signers of the petition to recall the President. [REDACTED]

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Separately, the OAS observer mission began operations after signing its agreement with the CNE. [REDACTED]

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Where to Vote?

2. (U) CNE director Jorge Rodriguez announced July 29 that the CNE would not consider requests to correct changes of voting location submitted after midnight July 26. Accion Democratica Deputy and Secretary General Henry Ramos Allup told reporters July 26 that the CNE had fraudulently changed the location where more than one million persons (1.16 million) are to vote. In response to the allegations, Rodriguez said CNE offices around the country would be open until midnight to address the problem.

3. (U) Ramos said the number is nearly four times the number of voluntary changes they would normally expect over a six-month period. Ramos highlighted the case with the names of some municipal officials who have not moved, are in office, and whose voting location has been changed to distant points. Media reports publicized numerous cases of Venezuelans who have been finding the changes as they check their registration via Internet and an 800 number. (The divergent information from these two sources has led to opposition charges that the CNE is working with duplicate electoral registries.) Some examples were changes within a city, but others were more egregious, such as a person who had been moved from one end of the country to another (Zulia to Amazonas).

4. (C) CNE President Francisco Carrasquero called the changes routine, the result of citizens' changes of address. He cited himself as an example, noting that he had always voted in Zulia and now the electoral registry shows him voting in Caracas. [REDACTED]

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5. (C) Opposition representatives told reporters they would bring the matter to the attention of the international observers. [REDACTED]

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